

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1-3, 10, 11, 18 and 42 are in allowable condition.

Claims 4-9, 12-17, 26-36, and 44 have been canceled.

Claims 19-25, 37-41 and 43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakano (U.S. Pub. No. 20020004701A1) in view of Edge (U.S. Pub. No. 20030060970A1). For the following reasons, the Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

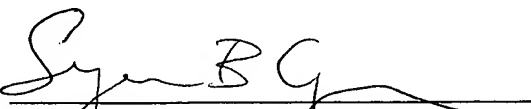
Applicants submit a Declaration under 37 CFR. 1.131 for establishing prior invention in a WTO member country after January 1, 1996. The declaration is submitted to establish invention of the subject matter of the rejected claims on or before July 28, 1999, which is prior to the effective dates of the Nakano reference (U.S. Pub. No. 20020004701A1) of July 6, 2001 and the Edge reference (U.S. Pub. No. 20030060970A1) of September 27, 2001 on which the rejection is based. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection under 103(a) should be withdrawn for claims 19-25, 37-41 and 43.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 34409.

Respectfully submitted,

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